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General Coal Miner Training Now Offered by Southwest Virginia Community College

- SWCC Office of Special Projects, DMME Partner on Coal Miner Training -

Richlands, VA – Beginning September 28, 2011, state-required General Coal Miner Training for individuals seeking work in surface or underground coal mines will be offered by Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC) in Cedar Bluff, VA. SWCC's Office of Special Projects entered into an agreement with the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) on June 21, 2011, to partner in offering this essential training to potential new miners. With the necessary training now available at SWCC's Cedar Bluff campus, and through the Internet, DMME's Division of Mines will no longer provide General Miner Training at its Lebanon, VA office.

Dr. Mark Estep, President of Southwest Virginia Community College, comments that "SWCC has a long history of serving the coal industry in southwest Virginia and I feel that this is simply another chapter to be written regarding the College's commitment to providing the workforce needs of this vital industry."

DMME Deputy Director Butch Lambert believes offering the General Coal Miner Training through SWCC will ultimately benefit those individuals seeking certification to work in Virginia's coal mines. "Our partnership with SWCC promises expanded opportunities for individuals looking for quality training using the latest technology," stated Lambert.

SWCC plans to offer General Coal Miner (GCM) Surface and GCM Underground on consecutive Wednesdays, beginning September 28, 2011. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m.

The General Coal Miner Training for surface and underground coal miners will be offered as a certification course through SWCC. The fee for each course will be \$35.00 per person per course, which includes all tuition and certification fees charged by SWCC and DMME. A representative from the college will collect all fees (cash only) at the time of registration which will take place in Ralph B. Davis Hall, Room 121. Students may call Mandy Harris at 276-964-7555 or email her at mandy.harris@sw.edu to gather additional information.

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